

Pagosa divided over arts venue c

Public pressure forces group to change plans

By Leanne Goebel
Special to the Herald

If leasing five acres of Archuleta County land for \$1 a year sounds too good to be true, well, it is.

That's the deal that The Pavilion at Pagosa Springs, a group led by Janis and Bob Moomaw, had hoped to secure to build a performing arts center in Pagosa Springs. But at a special meet-

ing Feb. 8 of the Archuleta Board of County Commissioners, The Pavilion withdrew the request under pressure from concerned residents who believed too many of the negotiations were going on behind closed doors.

Janis Moomaw began negotiating the lease with Commissioner Clifford Lucero in August, after Lucero had initial discussions with her husband, Commissioner Bob Moomaw (whose term ended Jan. 4) and Pavilion board member Al Bledsoe. The meeting violated the Colorado Sunshine Law, which states that any meeting involving two or more elected officials must be publicly noticed.

See Pagosa venue, 6B



The Pavilion, a group directed by Pagosa Springs resident Moomaw, hoped to erect a tent similar to this one, shown at the 2010 Four Corners Folk Festival, on county-owned land at Town Hall. The Pavilion withdrew its request for the \$1 per acre special county meeting Feb. 8.